



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT *of* HEALTH

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
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Public Health Week Observed April 2 Through 8 in North Dakota

BISMARCK, N.D. – Governor John Hoeven has proclaimed April 2 through 8, 2007, as Public Health Week in North Dakota

The theme for Public Health Week 2007 is “Take the First Step! Preparedness and Public Health Threats: Addressing the Unique Needs of the Nation’s Vulnerable Populations,” which focuses on the importance of preparing for public health emergencies.

“Today, it’s more important than ever for North Dakotans – and all Americans – to prepare for the next disaster, whatever it may be,” Hoeven said. “I encourage all North Dakotans to make plans to keep themselves and their families safe during an emergency.”

North Dakota’s local public health units and the North Dakota Department of Health, along with numerous other organizations, are working to educate North Dakotans about what they need to do to prepare for a public health emergency. However, despite awareness efforts about potential threats like an influenza pandemic, people generally remain largely unprepared for public health emergencies. A February 2007 survey conducted by the American Public Health Association noted only 27 percent of the public has a three-day supply of water, food and medicine and a reliable first aid kit.

“Public Health Week 2007 is about empowering North Dakotans to take steps to plan for health emergencies,” said State Health Officer Terry Dwelle, M.D. “We want everyone to be protected from health dangers that could arise in the event of an emergency, such as a disease outbreak or a natural disaster.”

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Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.

Families, for example, should consider if they have enough food at home to feed each family member for at least three to five days. Businesses should have emergency contingency plans in place for employees. And schools and day cares should have adequate first aid supplies on hand to handle a variety of medical needs.

“Educating residents about what they can do to prepare effectively for a health crisis is invaluable to securing the safety of every North Dakotan,” Dwelle said. “Together, we can make these efforts a priority in 2007 and implement appropriate plans and resources to preserve the well-being of North Dakotans for years to come.”

For more information about preparing for emergencies, call the North Dakota Department of Health at 701.328.2372 or visit www.ndhan.gov or www.ready.gov.

Please note: Governor’s proclamation follows.

PROCLAMATION
PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK
April 2 through 8, 2007

WHEREAS, North Dakota’s local public health units and the North Dakota Department of Health, along with numerous other organizations, are making every effort to educate North Dakotans about what they need to do to prepare for a public health emergency; and

WHEREAS, all North Dakotans are encouraged to make plans to keep themselves and their families safe during an emergency, whether natural or manmade; and

WHEREAS, comprehensive and coordinated plans should be in place at schools, day-care centers and homes to safeguard children from health emergencies; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota businesses should develop plans to keep their employees safe in the event of an emergency; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota communities are encouraged to plan in advance to ensure their residents can respond effectively to a public health emergency.

NOW, THEREFORE, as the Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim April 2 through 8, 2007, **Public Health Week** in the state of North Dakota.

John Hoeven
Governor

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